

# MCTSSA

OneSource Brief

Third Quarter, 2014

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES OF THE MARINE CORPS TACTICAL SYSTEMS SUPPORT ACTIVITY

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*Activity welcomes SgtMaj Brandon Hall as  
MCTSSA's 29th senior enlisted advisor*

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# Promotions



Lance Corporal Gary Charron, Jr.



Corporal Cody Dillinger



Lance Corporal Jesse James



Corporal Ian Geller



Lance Corporal Emmanuel Villegas



Corporal Joshua Minch



Sergeant Issac Hinsley



Sergeant Brian Thibodeaux





—PFC TO LANCE CORPORAL—

- Gary Charron Jr.
- Jesse James
- Emmanuel Villegas

—LANCE CORPORAL TO CORPORAL—

- Cody Dillinger
- Ian Geller
- Joshua Minch

—CORPORAL TO SERGEANT—

- Issac Hinsley
- Brian Thibodeaux

## Decorations

### Legion of Merit

SgtMaj Kenneth Warren

### Meritorious Service Medal

Major Thomas Espinoza

CWO3 Robert Lee

GySgt Arthur Tucker

### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

MGySgt Christopher Boeskool

Staff Sergeant Larry Jones

### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Sergeant Matthew Causey



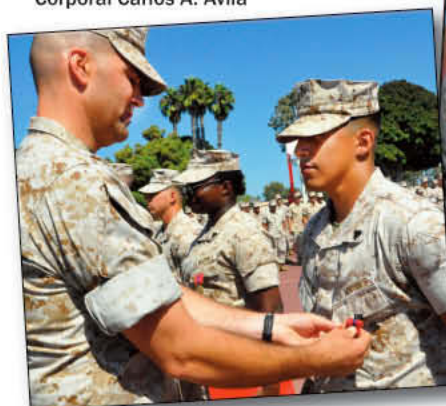
Corporal Carlos A. Avila



Colonel Benjamin Stinson,  
MCTSSA's Commanding Officer,  
presents SSgt Larry Jones (top left) the  
Navy and Marine Commendation Medal,  
and Sgt Matthew Causey (right) the  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Corporal Searrah M. Hines



Corporal Roger Ortizmartinez

### Good Conduct Medal

Corporal Carlos A. Avila

Corporal Searrah M. Hines

Corporal Roger Ortizmartinez

Sergeant Jordan A. Rogers

### Meritorious Mast

Sergeant Robert Johnson (Logistics)

Corporal Giovanna Cabello (Supply)

Corporal Julian Lechuga (OFTSSC)

LCpl Emmanuel Villegas (Admin)

LCpl Semhar Hidad (TISG)

PFC Jordan Roebuck (Supply)

LCpl Cameron Foss (TISG)



Sergeant Jordan A. Rogers



Meritorious Mast recipients being congratulated  
by Sergeant Major Kenneth Warren



## Awards & Commendations



### Meritorious Civilian Service

MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson presents Rickey Graham, a telecommunications specialist working within the Technical Infrastructure and Services Group, a Commendation for Meritorious Civilian Service, recognizing Graham for his superior service while supporting several complex network engineering initiatives at MCTSSA. Graham led efforts to redesign the network infrastructure associated with MCTSSA's Systems Integration Environment, establishing baseline network configurations to support systems testing and resulting in an overall cost avoidance of \$720,000.

Rickey Graham

### CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER

Colonel Benjamin Stinson, MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, named Rahil Patel as MCTSSA's Civilian Employee of the Quarter in recognition of his achievements and outstanding work in support of a variety of network upgrades and his technical assistance in the development of Marine Corps Systems Command's planning concept for the Marine Corps Enterprise Network and Joint Information Environment effort.



Rahil Patel



### MCTSSA Family Readiness Program

The MCTSSA Family Readiness Program is to provide resource information and support services to enhance personal and family readiness. We strive to provide employees and family members at MCTSSA with family information, news, events, and activities. The primary means for communication is the MCTSSA *eMarine website*. Here, families can learn more about upcoming events, benefits, and the services and facilities available on MCB Camp Pendleton. The second means of communication will be weekly emails highlighting upcoming events. Over the next several weeks, we will be reaching out to employees in an attempt to gain family contact information. If you have questions or concerns related to Family Readiness, please do not hesitate to call or email Major Jeff Costa.

#### FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Major Jeff Costa:

jeff.costa@usmc.mil • (760) 725-2501



# Civilian Awards



MCTSSA's CO, Benjamin Stinson congratulating Earl "Buck" Connally for achieving 40 years of Federal Service, 25 of which were at MCTSSA. Also pictured is Janet Espinosa who has served 30 years in Federal Service with 24 years at MCTSSA.

## Federal Length of Service Awards

Earl Connally (40 years)  
 Sheila Dillon (35 years)  
 Janet Espinosa (30 years)  
 Gerald MacCormack (25 years)  
 Robert Rubin (25 years)  
 Jeffrey Wade (10 years)  
 Carlito Pamelar (10 years)  
 Wei Zhou (10 years)



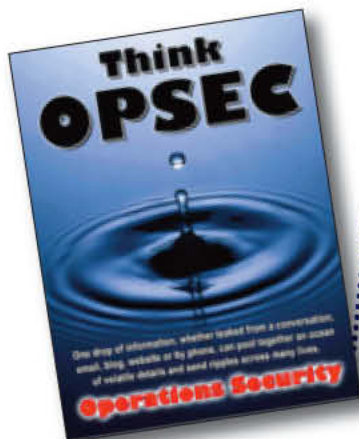
Gerry MacCormack receiving his 25-Year Federal Service Award — 24 years with MCTSSA

## Certificate of Commendation

Todd Bigalke  
 Cheryl Brennan  
 Torry Dixon  
 Ferdinand Gozum  
 Brian Higa  
 Jennifer Kays  
 Shaun Monera  
 Chris Nelson  
 Mark Scheuffele  
 Jeff Wade  
 My-Linh Weatherford  
 David Yergensen

## Time-off Awards

Ernest Beckler	Joe Bao
Kenneth Williams	Anthony Do
George Geno	Ronald Osborne
Gina Mercado	Hugh Pollard
Kristoffer Roxas	Nancy Rathgeber
Andrew Sharp	Mark Scheuffele
Deborah Suminski	Jacqueline Crawford
Kevin Dillon	Richard Domondon
Viktoria Lawrence	Colin Floate
Kyle Miyoshi	Richard Konrad
Rahil Patel	Christine Nelson
Robert Rubin	Wil Williams
Curtis Selden	



About that paperwork  
 you're about to throw  
 away...In the  
 forthcoming OPSEC  
 order, MCTSSA will  
 have a policy of 100%  
 Shred!!



Photo by SgtMaj Brandon Hall: To the entertainment of all, MCTSSA's Public Affairs Officer Wil Williams unexpectedly had his camera taken from him by the Sergeant Major during the Activity's September Awards program, so MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson, could present him with a MCTSSA "Time-Off" Award.

## Family Readiness Advisors

### *Hello MCTSSA Family,*

We are your new MCTSSA Family Readiness Advisors, and we would like to introduce ourselves.

April Hall has been married to Sergeant Major Brandon Hall for 23 years, and they have two sons, ages 20 and 16, and an eight-year-old daughter. When she is not home schooling her children, April is passionate about volunteer work and supporting fellow Marine spouses.

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*"Although we are a non-deploying unit, it's still important for spouses to build a network for support and resources..."*

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"Although we are a non-deploying unit, it's still important for spouses to build a network for support and resources. I encourage spouses to be committed and engaged in their spouse's career," April Hall said.

Toni Stinson has been married to Colonel Ben Stinson for 24 years, and they have three children. Both of their sons are Marines, a lance corporal and a corporal, stationed at Camp Lejeune and their daughter is attending the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, RI.

"The Marine Corps has shaped my life in so many ways and it has become an extended family as we move from duty station to duty station. I firmly believe that you get out of this life what you put into it. It is my hope to help

provide our MCTSSA Family with many opportunities to connect and to support each other during our time here," Toni Stinson said.

We are both mothers and wives and, like all of you, we support our Marines and MCTSSA civilians as they serve our nation with the vital mission MCTSSA meets daily.

We are all part of one team, one MCTSSA Family. Lending an extra hand to our teammates when they are in need and providing resources that help make supporting our Marines and civilians easier, that is *family readiness*.

As the Family Readiness Advisors, we will be working together with command leadership to communicate the needs

of our MCTSSA Family and to help improve our unit's quality of life. We welcome your suggestions and concerns!

To kick off our Family Readiness goals, MCTSSA will host a Family Night full of fun and information in late October. Stay tuned for more details on e-Marine and from MCTSSA Family Readiness Officer Major Jeff Costa! We look forward to meeting each of you at the MCTSSA Family events in the coming year.

Warmly,

*Toni and April*



- Sgt Kyle & Estefania Nangauta, a girl, August 15, 2014
- Cpl Samantha & Matt Tilley, a girl, August 17, 2014
- Cpl Estephani & Juan Soto, a girl, August 21, 2014
- Cpl Nickolas & Karsen Sahr, a boy, August 25, 2014
- Sgt Brian & Elizabeth Thibodeaux, a boy, Sept. 9, 2014

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One of the youngest attendees at this year's Beach Bash was the 18-month-old daughter of Lance and Jennifer Raymond.





## MCSC's new Commander visits MCTSSA & AVTB



During his busy, full-day schedule—which included walking tours of MCTSSA's extensive lab complex and AVTB's test and evaluation facilities—Colonel Shrader took time to shake hands and speak with numerous Marines and Civilian Marines. At MCTSSA's Ground Combat Element Lab, the Colonel talked with Sgt Jesse Houseman (far right), accompanied by MCTSSA's Sergeant Major, Kenneth Warren (center), and MCTSSA's Command Officer, Colonel Benjamin Stinson (left).

Colonel Shrader examines a quadcopter and camera, part of the testing instrumentation used by AVTB to collect real-time video of testing conducted at sea.



Colonel Shrader, accompanied by MCTSSA's new Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Kevin Schlegel, view a new, lightweight track assembly being tested by AVTB as part of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) Surf Baseline Test. The Surf Baseline Test will compare the differences between this new track assembly against the current afloat propulsion AAV track assembly capability.

**B**rigadier General Joseph Shrader, Commander at Marine Corps Systems Command, received his new rank at a frocking ceremony Aug. 28 at Hospital Point on Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

Shortly after assuming command, then Colonel Shrader visited and toured MCTSSA and AVTB. While at MCTSSA, he held an extensive all-hands brief where he fielded questions and discussed his priorities and "Commander's Intent" with more than 300 employees in attendance. ■

With over 300 MCTSSA employees in attendance, Colonel Shrader fielded questions on a variety of subjects and employee concerns at an all-hands meeting held on MCTSSA's basketball court.





# SgtMaj Warren bids farewell to MCTSSA, Corps

## Activity welcomes SgtMaj Brandon Hall as its 29th senior enlisted advisor

**M**arine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity welcomed Sgt. Maj. Brandon Hall as the Activity's new sergeant major during a relief and appointment ceremony Aug. 14 at Camp Pendleton, California.

MCTSSA's sergeant major incumbent, Kenneth Warren, retired after 30 years of service to the Corps, handing over the role of senior enlisted advisor to Hall, the 29th Marine staff noncommissioned officer to occupy this post since the Activity was established in 1970.

***"Sergeant Major Warren has left a pretty good mark around here..."***

Prior to joining MCTSSA, Hall served as sergeant major in four other units: the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 (MTACS-38), Marine Air Support Squadron 3 and Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38. While serving with the MTACS-38, he also served as the Marine Air Control Group 38(FWD) sergeant major on two deployments.

"Sergeant Major Warren has left a pretty good mark around here," Hall said. "I look forward to working and looking into each one of the different aspects MCTSSA has to offer to protect

***Sgt. Maj. Brandon Hall congratulates Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Warren for his 30 years of service with the Corps.***



our warfighter that's down range. Nobody really knows all what MCTSSA does, but everybody specifically the warfighter benefits from its work."

Warren's retiring officer, Col. James H. Adams, commanding officer of the Marine Aviation, Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, noted that a few years in the Marine Corps is for some a very trying experience, but 30 years is an "amazing feat."

"To do that and to do it so well; that's very noteworthy," Adams said. "It's hard to capture in a brief amount of time 30 years of amazing sacrifice, amazing service and amazing leadership."

Quoting comments former commander of Marine Corps Systems Command Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley wrote in Warren's last fitness report, Adams said he believed Kelley's vision of Warren's legacy was exactly correct:

"Sergeant Major Warren is an authentic leader who has physical, intellectual, emotional and moral attributes that General [John] Lejeune instructed all to exemplify," Adams said. "The Marines that served with him and for him will carry the Warren brand, perhaps not realizing how that will distinguish them. I carry that branding as do many of those in the audience. Your influence will last for generations." ■





## Marine Corps Ball

The 2014 MCTSSA/AVTB Birthday Ball — celebrating the 239th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps — will be held on November 7, 2014, at the Pala Casino Spa & Resort, in Pala, California. This year's guest of honor will be SgtMaj Ronald Green, I MEF's current Sergeant Major.

Tickets may be purchased at the Command Deck Secretary's Office, Building 31335, Room 33, from 0700-1130 and 1300-1530, beginning 22 September — 3 November. Contacts for ticket sales are Mrs. Avon Teague, (760) 725-2617, [avon.teague@usmc.mil](mailto:avon.teague@usmc.mil) or Capt William Travis, 760-725-2338, [william.travis@usmc.mil](mailto:william.travis@usmc.mil).

### Ticket Prices:

- O4 -O6/ NH-4: \$75
  - E8 -E9/ WO-1 -CW03/ O1-O3/ NH-3: \$65
  - E6 -E7/ NK/ NH-2: \$55
  - E4 -E5: \$10
  - E3 and Below: Free
- All Ticket Prices are good for the Attendee plus "one" Guest  
• Any additional guests will pay \$75 per ticket



## Are you registered to vote?

*There are five weeks until the November 4 general election!*

Register, request, and return your ballot now to make sure that you have the opportunity to vote absentee. If you have not requested your absentee ballot for the 2014 general election, go to [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) and use the online assistant to complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

If you haven't received your requested ballot by October 4, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as your back-up ballot! The online assistant at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) will pre-populate your FWAB with candidate lists depending on your Congressional District.



Help spread the word:  
Pass this information on to spouses, voting-age depend-

ents, other military and overseas voters.

Remember, the FPCA is only used for absentee voting. If you live within your voting jurisdiction, register to vote using your State form.

If you would like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact FVAP at 1-800-438-8683, DSN 425-1584, or [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). Lt. Amanda Jones, MCTSSA's adjutant, is also the Unit Voting Assistance Officer, should you have questions. More info is available at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP](http://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP) and on Twitter @FVAP. ■

## Commanding Officer's Perspective

### TEAM MCTSSA

Our fiscal year (FY) is ending and a new one beginning. I would like to thank all of you for your efforts to execute and close out our FY14 plans.

It's important to reflect on this past year and make honest assessments of our performance. Our MCSC Commander, BGen Shrader, has asked all of us to conduct an "after-action" review. As I stated in my leadership philosophy, "Leaders at all levels must verify the performance of their team." Understanding your performance level and that of your team's is the first step in improving performance.



Speaking of improving, the command is making strides to improve our Family Readiness Program. Maj Jeff Costa has been assigned as the MCTSSA Family Readiness Officer (FRO), and spouses—Toni Stinson and April Hall—have been assigned as Command Family Readiness Advisors. MCTSSA

### "MCTSSA will be hosting a Spouse Welcome night in late October."

will be hosting a Spouse Welcome night in late October. We will host more Family Readiness events in the future to ensure our MCTSSA families are connected and prepared for the challenges of military life. The FRO and your Command Readiness Advisors welcome suggestions from you or your spouse.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the command who took the time to fill out the Safety Survey and Command Climate Survey this past quarter. Your honest and candid responses help me and the leadership of MCTSSA know where to focus our efforts. You will receive more detailed feedback from the two surveys. More importantly, you should see a concerted effort from your leadership to address areas in the command that we can improve.

Thank you for what you do for Marines and the Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

Col Ben Stinson



# Beach Bash 2014



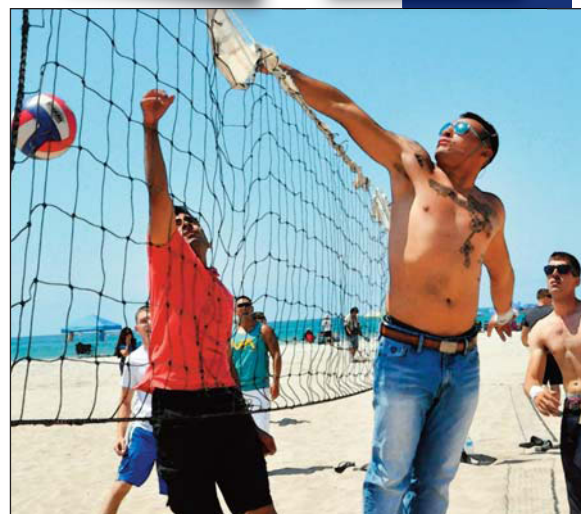




**D**rawing a crowd of over 450 Marines, civilians, and their families, this year's Beach Bash "went very well and was enjoyed by all," says MSgt Roy Ahler, who along with a coordination team of eight volunteers spear-headed this year's successful day. "From the feedback I got," says Ahler, "everyone really loved the day and enjoyed themselves. Most wanted to have more events like this because it brought families together."

In addition to a great lunch donated to the Marines and their families by Armor of Light there was something for everyone: face painting, balloon throws, tug-a-war and volleyball competitions, and of course surfing or just relaxing under the sun at the beach. This year's event also included live vocal entertainment by Sarah Lehman, the 15 year-old daughter of MCTSSA's personnel security specialist Brian Lehman.

The Beach Bash was also used as a fundraising venue for the Marine Corps Ball. Volunteers including MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Sergeant Major, and other good sports were the target at the "dunking tank," where for a small fee one could if lucky or accurate successfully execute a ducking. ■



In addition to the few pictures shown here, hundreds other shots of taken at Beach Bash and other MCTSSA events are posted on MCTSSA's "S" Drive site, under the file name "Activity/Command Photography." This photography has been released, so it may be downloaded to obtain copies for yourself, family or friends. If you have questions, please contact the Activity's public affairs officer at [wil.williams@usmc.mil](mailto:wil.williams@usmc.mil).





## AVTB gives local dads, daughters taste of Marine life

Daughters and their dads came away with lasting and big shared memories Sept. 6, thanks to the Marine Corps Systems Command Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch at Camp Pendleton, California. Through a community partnership with the YMCA, 48 daughters ages 5-11 and 37 fathers learned firsthand about Marine life.

"We were so pleased to be able to expose some of the dads and daughters involved with the YMCA Adventure Princess Program to the roles, missions, culture and overall professionalism of the Marines assigned to the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch," said Lt. Col. Robert Bailey, AVTB director. "The vast majority of the families in this program are not military families, and being able to talk about who the Marines are; what they do and see; what kind of character Marines have definitely puts a face and a name to a Marine Corps Base that is such a big part of this community."

For more than 150 years, the YMCA has partnered with the U.S. military to provide service members and their families with a vast array of services at home and abroad including food, clothing, medical supplies, and rest and recreation facilities and programs.

The Marines of AVTB returned that goodwill, sponsoring the local YMCA program where fathers and daughters go on a journey of learning and growing together. The goal was to encourage fun, understanding, and strong companionship with each other.

AVTB's princess journey started from a YMCA camp-out held aboard Camp Pendleton at the Del Mar Beach recreation area. Taking a "Marine moment" from the camp-out and beach activities, AVTB hosted the

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*"I'm confident that the girls now have a better understanding and appreciation for Marines..."*

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fathers and daughters for lunch, an Assault Amphibious Vehicle familiarization ride, viewing of an amphibious capabilities demonstration, and static display tours and questions and answers with AVTB Marines.

Culminating the event, Sgt. Chadmichael Herman, an AAV crew chief, presented a Marine Corps Professional Military Education brief on Marine Corps leadership traits and core values.

"I'm confident that the girls now have a better understanding and appreciation for Marines," Bailey said. "It also was meaningful for the Marines to have an opportunity to showcase their skills, in particular to lead a discussion on leadership using the Marine Corps leadership traits and core values. Leadership and character development are principal aims of this program for the girls, and our Marines were able to make a contribution toward that."

The feedback AVTB received from both the dads and very excited daughters was outstanding, Bailey said.

"Most of the families live in the vicinity of Camp Pendleton, yet most had little to no experience or interaction with the Marines," he said. "This event provided an excellent opportunity for the Marines to share their knowledge and experiences with young, female future leaders in the Southern California community." ■



Following a street ride in the Assault Amphibious Vehicle, Sgt Clinton Delapp, a Marine assigned to the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, shows young girls around the vehicle, while their father takes snapshots. Through a community partnership with the YMCA, AVTB sponsored the YMCA Adventure Princess Program Sept. 6 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. During the event, AVTB provided demonstrations, displays and tours for 37 fathers and 48 daughters from the local community.

(Left) AVTB's Director, Lt. Col. Robert Bailey accompanied by his daughter briefs the fathers and daughters attendees on AVTB's mission.



Clinging to AVTB's exterior fence facing Camp Pendleton's Del Mar boat basin, all the daughters were treated to front-row, aquatic view of some of the Amphibious Assault Vehicle's capabilities and maneuvers in the water.